Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) Locking device according to claim 23, wherein said gear has toothed wheels, wherein said wheels are not axially parallel.

5. (Currently amended) Locking device according to claim 4~~2~~3, wherein said gear ~~is~~comprises a worm gear.

6-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) Locking device according to claim 13, wherein a sensor ~~or a switch~~ senses opening of the tailgate to provide a signal to the operating device.

13. (Previously presented) Locking device according to claim 23 for a cover of a vehicle trunk, wherein said trunk has a tailgate.

14. (Previously presented) Locking device according to claim 23 for a cover of a motor vehicle trunk, wherein said cover comprises said holding part and is held closed in a holding position by said projection.

15. (Previously presented) Locking device according to claim 14, wherein said cover with said holding part moves in a guide and engages said projection in said guide.

16. (Original) Locking device according to claim 15, wherein said projection is movable for bringing about engagement and for releasing said guide.

17. (Currently amended) Locking device according to claim 14, wherein ~~there is a holding position of said cover, where~~ said cover is under the action of a tension, said cover automatically being retracted on ~~releasing said holding position~~being released from said projection.

18. (Currently amended) Locking device according to claim 14, wherein said projection ~~in a form-closed manner~~ holds said cover in both said directions along said guide and prevents a movement of the cover.

19. (Original) Locking device according to claim 14, wherein said trunk has a lateral boundary and said guide runs in upwardly sloping manner thereon.

20. (Original) Locking device according to claim 19, wherein said guide is located on the rearmost roof support column of the motor vehicle and runs in the direction of the roof.

21. (Original) Locking device according to claim 14, wherein said cover is a flat article and has a rod at one of its ends, said rod essentially covering said entire trunk width.

22. (Original) Locking device according to claim 21, wherein said ends of said rod form said holding parts and are retained by said projection.

23. (Previously presented) Locking device for a motor vehicle, said locking device comprising:

a projection having a freedom of relative movement in a first direction and in a second opposite direction;

a holding part to be locked by said projection, said projection and said holding part being movable relative to one another;

a spring for maintaining the projection in a holding position to provide a holding action by applying a biasing force in the first direction; and

an operating device co-acting with said projection, said operating device including an electromotive drive with a gear for providing relative movement of said projection from the holding position of said holding part in the second direction to a release position for releasing said holding part,

wherein in the second direction for releasing said holding action, the movement takes place electromotively through said operating device and in the first direction said movement takes place by the force of said spring.

24. (Previously presented) Locking device arrangement for locking and unlocking of an end rod that is movable along a guide so that a cover secured to the end rod is capable of closing a recess in a rear part of a motor vehicle, said locking device arrangement comprising:

a projection for locking the end rod, said projection being movable in a first direction and in a second direction, said projection and the end rod being movable relative to one another;

a spring for maintaining the projection in a holding position by applying a biasing force in the first direction; and

an operating device co-acting with said projection, said operating device including an electromotive drive with a gear

arrangement for generating movement of said projection in the second direction to a release position away from the holding position, that releases the end rod for movement along the guide,

wherein movement in the second direction takes place electromotively through said operating device and movement in the first direction takes place by the force of said spring.

25. (Previously presented) The locking device arrangement according to Claim 24, wherein said gear arrangement comprises a worm wheel connected to a drive shaft of said electromotive drive, said worm wheel rotatably driving an adjacent counter wheel.

26. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 25, wherein said gear arrangement comprises a toothed wheel connected to said counter wheel and a rack capable of linear motion in response to rotation of said toothed wheel.

27. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 26, wherein said spring is oriented at one end against an end of said rack.

28. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 24, wherein said gear arrangement comprises a toothed wheel and a rack capable of linear motion in response to rotation of said toothed wheel.

29. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 28, wherein said spring is oriented at one end against an end of said rack.

30. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 24, wherein said spring comprises a spiral spring.

31. (Previously presented) The locking arrangement according to Claim 24, wherein said projection comprises a first prong and a second prong defining a cavity therebetween to receive the end rod.

32. (Previously presented) Locking device arrangement for locking and unlocking of an end rod that is movable along a guide so that a cover secured to the end rod is capable of closing a recess in a rear part of a motor vehicle, said locking device arrangement comprising:

a projection for locking the end rod, said projection being movable in a first linear direction and in a second opposite direction, said projection and the end rod being movable relative to one another;

a spring for maintaining the projection in a holding position for holding the end rod by applying a biasing force in the first direction; and

an operating device co-acting with said projection, said operating device including an electromotive drive with a gear arrangement for generating movement of said projection in the second direction to a release position away from the holding position, that releases the end rod for movement along the guide, said gear arrangement including a toothed wheel and a rack capable of linear motion in response to rotation of said toothed wheel,

wherein movement in the second direction takes place electromotively through said operating device and movement in the first direction takes place by the force of said spring.